



NEWS & UPDATES

City of Franklin to Flip the Switch on First Solar Array City to See Energy Savings and Payoff Each Year—More Later

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Franklin—The City of Franklin's first solar array is complete and will be connected to the grid soon. Under the arrangement, the City is leasing 1 acre of land at the wastewater treatment facility to Nashville based Energy Source Partners who designed, permitted, funded, and installed the ground mounted 200 kW array.

According to Mayor Moore, "The City owns about 100 acres at the wastewater treatment plant so we have the land, just not the capital needed to finance a solar system. Leasing this property allows us to explore public/private joint ventures and to test this model while also keeping our options open for the rest of the property."

The City did not commit any funds nor will be responsible for maintaining the system. Because the site is a former sludge field, the City did not want to turn any dirt (or sludge), but instead make this as low impact as possible. In addition, local installers and contractors were used, the racking system was fabricated by a Nashville business, the blocks used to weigh down the panels are made from recycled tires, and all 840 panels were manufactured in Memphis and shipped for no cost.

All of the power generated is sold back to TVA and transmitted to the electric grid. The revenue generated from the solar power is split 80/20 in favor of Energy Source Partners until they have received payments totaling \$393,690. Staff estimates that this payoff point will be reached in the first quarter of the 9th year of the agreement. Once that total has been reached, the revenue will be split 80/20 in favor of the City for the duration of the 20 year lease.

"This project is a public/private partnership that allows the City of Franklin to both generate revenue and to generate renewable energy that lowers their carbon footprint," said Ron Merville, President and CEO of Energy Source Partners. "Franklin will lead by example as a city committed to being a better steward of both their resources and the environment."

The City anticipates earning \$11,530 per year until the estimated payoff in year 9, after which the

average projected revenue is \$31,530 per year through year 20 of the lease agreement.

At the end of the 20 year lease, the City has the option to either buy the system and take ownership at fair market value or request that ESP, at no cost to the City, remove all equipment associated with the project and restore the site to the original condition prior to entering into this agreement.

The City will also consider adding solar to other municipal properties. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 1st at the wastewater treatment plant.

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